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## **The Homeland Security News Briefing**

**TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF**

**DATE: MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018 5:00 AM EDT**

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## Leading DHS News:

**ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT HAS MET COURT-ORDERED DEADLINE TO REUNITE MIGRANT FAMILIES.** [CBS This Morning](#) (7/27, 2.91M) reported the Administration “says it has met a court-ordered deadline to reunite ‘eligible’ children that have been separate from their families in its controversial border crackdown. As of yesterday, according to the government, 1,820 children had been reunited, but 711 children are still separated because their parents are no longer in the US. Some have waived their rights so the children could stay in the country.” The [AP](#) (7/27, Spagat, Long, Snow) reports that the federal judge who ordered the family reunifications now “must decide how to address the hundreds of still-separated children whose parents have been deported, as well as how much time, if any, reunified parents should be allowed to file asylum claims.”

Meanwhile, Gabe Gutierrez on [NBC's Today Show](#) (7/27, 3.35M) reports “immigration advocates at the border say the scramble to reunite families has been an absolute mess.” A nearly 1,900-word front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/27, A1, Malas, Caldwell, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) piece titled “Inside The Trump Administration's Chaotic Effort To Reunite Migrant Families” provides a similar assessment, as does [Reuters](#) (7/27, Levinson, Cooke), which reports the Administration in court filings “said...it lacked the technical capability to quickly provide states with information about children separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border under President Donald Trump's ‘zero tolerance’ policy toward illegal immigrants” and “said...attempts to gather data to comply with states’ requests would divert it from efforts to reunite families.”

In another article, [Reuters](#) (7/27, Hals) reports that although US District Judge Dana Sabraw on Friday “said...the government deserved credit for the 1,820 children released from custody to a parent or sponsor,” he “urged officials to focus on the 711 children who remain separated after the government deemed their parents ineligible because they were deported, the government was unable to find them in the United States or the parent failed a background check.” According to Reuters, “Sabraw seemed most concerned during Friday's hearing with allegations that 120 parents who the government said had waived their right to reunification might have misunderstood what they were signing, or felt coerced.” The [AP](#) (7/28, Spagat, Long, Taxin) reports Sabraw also “ordered the government and the American Civil Liberties Union, which represents the parents, to submit written updates every Thursday on still-separated families.” The AP suggests the latest order “signaled slightly looser oversight than Sabraw imposed last month with frequent hearings to make sure his deadline was met.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/27, Epstein, Hurtado, Mehrotra, 4.46M) reports, “The Trump administration declared it met a judge's deadline to reunify immigrant children taken from their parents, but left out a quarter of the separated families it initially agreed to reconnect.” According to Bloomberg News, “In all, 711 children are in limbo as federal authorities have categorized their parents ‘not eligible’ or ‘not available’ to be reunited,” and “more than half those children are associated with adults who have left the U.S., either having been deported or having agreed to leave the country.” Bloomberg News adds, “In other cases, parents may have a serious criminal record or signed documents giving up the right to get their children back.” The American Civil Liberties Union “said it has no way of verifying the government's claims that it rematched all eligible families or why some couldn't be reunited,” and it asked Judge Sabraw “to demand transparency and accountability as hundreds of children remained in custody hours before the court deadline Thursday.”

[CNN](#) (7/28, Shoichet, 82.6M) reports, “What happens to these kids could vary greatly depending on each individual case,” and attorneys “are still battling over the next steps in court.” CNN adds, “And as the landscape shifts, lawyers for immigration advocacy groups are trying to figure things out as they go. ‘It's just layers and layers of legal complexities that have been created,’ said Wendy Young, president of Kids in Need of Defense, a nonprofit dedicated to providing legal representation for unaccompanied minors.” According to CNN, “One point of confusion: Although these children crossed the border with their parents, they're now considered ‘unaccompanied alien children’ in the government's eyes – the same as if they'd come to the United States alone. ‘There are some really thorny legal questions that arise,’ Young said, since these children became so-called unaccompanied minors only after officials separated them from their parents.”

The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/27, Carranza, 1.21M) reports, “The federal government's effort to reunite migrant parents with their children who were separated after reaching the U.S.-Mexico border has been chaotic and confusing, a legal group said Friday.” The Texas Civil Rights Project “said the piecemeal process has led to at least one instance of the government presenting the wrong child to a mother and many more of parents left waiting and sleeping in cars overnight

because their child had not arrived yet.” Efren Olivares, “the Texas Civil Rights Project’s director for racial and economic justice, said the group had 110 of its clients reunited in the past two weeks.” He “described the process as ‘chaotic’ and said many of those rushed reunions took place in the parking lots of the detention facilities, and then the reunited families were dropped off to U.S. Catholic Charities or placed into family detention.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/27, A1, Malas, Caldwell, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) also reports.

Meanwhile, Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), in an interview with [The Hill](#) (7/27, Bonn, 2.71M), called on the judiciary “to hold the Trump administration accountable when it comes to reuniting” the children with their parents. Cortez Masto also told [The Hill](#) “she wants to slash funding for a division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that she called ‘unnecessary’ and ‘inhumane.’” Cortez Masto asserted, “What I’ve seen this administration do is take the money from that important function that is important for our national security and take that fund and give it to an inhumane, unnecessary deportation force that is going after separating families.” She added that “rogue agents” in ICE are “abusing their power” and “should be held accountable.”

***NYTimes Highlights Some Cases That Will Challenge Efforts To Reunify Families.*** The [New York Times](#) (7/27, Jordan, 19.33M) outlines some of the 700 or so “cases that will continue to occupy federal immigration lawyers and immigrant advocates in the coming days, as federal authorities continue to unwind the effects of the policy that saw 2,800 or more children removed from their families in an attempt to deter the recent flood of migrant families from Central America.”

## **DHS News:**

**TRUMP CONVENES NSC MEETING ON ELECTION SECURITY.** [Reuters](#) (7/27, Heavey, Beech) reports President Trump on Friday convened “his national security advisers...for a high-level meeting on election security, less than four months until Americans vote to determine whether his fellow Republicans maintain control of Congress.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/27, Sciutto, 581K) senior national correspondent Alex Marquardt said the meeting is “meant to show” the Administration is taking the “election cybersecurity threat from Russia” seriously, though officials are “so far...vague on the details” of what was discussed.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Nakashima, 15.68M) reports that the meeting, “which lasted less than an hour, covered all the activities by federal agencies to help state and local election officials, and to investigate and hold accountable Russian hackers seeking to undermine American democracy.” Looking at the efforts of various federal players in the effort to protect the elections, the Post reports that FBI Director Wray “last fall set up a foreign influence task force to counter influence operations targeting the United States.” The FBI task force “works closely with the Department of Homeland Security and foreign allies who are also combating Russia’s malign activities.” [The Hill](#) (7/27, Chalfant, 2.71M) reports that a “host” of top officials attended the meeting, including VP Pence, Secretary of State Pompeo, AG Sessions, FBI Director Wray, DHS Secretary Nielsen, DNI Coats, among others.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/27, Boyer, 460K) reports the White House said in a statement that the meeting “addressed threats posed to our elections from malign foreign actors, efforts underway to provide cybersecurity assistance to state and local authorities, and actions to investigate, prosecute, and hold accountable those who illegally attempt to interfere in our political and electoral processes.” On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (7/27, Wallace, 2.02M), correspondent Peter Doocy read out a statement issued after the meeting by White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders: “The President has made it clear that his Administration will not tolerate foreign interference in our elections from any nation state or other malicious actors.” [Reuters](#) (7/27, Stewart) reports Defense Secretary Mattis separately told reporters the Administration is taking action “to protect our elections [and] to expose any external – any, by anybody – external efforts to influence the American public,” but he added, “I’m not going to go into any details.”

However, while the President on Friday “promised an intense, ‘whole-of-government’ focus on securing the nation’s elections from cyberattacks,” a [Politico](#) (7/27, Geller, 3.51M) survey of state election agencies nationwide “finds ample reasons to worry about both this year’s midterms and 2020.” According to Politico, “Only 14 states plus Washington, D.C., say they plan to replace their voting machines in time for the next presidential election using their shares of the \$380 million in election technology funding that Congress approved in March,” and “at least six other states have paid for new voting equipment with other money. But 22 states either have decided not to upgrade their machines or are unsure of their plans – with some saying they would need much more federal aid to swap out their equipment.” Meanwhile, [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/27, story 4, 2:00, Holt, 6.74M) cited “current and former officials” who “tell NBC News the Trump Administration has no central strategy to stop Russia from meddling again.”

Still, [NBC News](#) (7/27, Dilanian, 5.76M) reports that “even members of Trump’s national security cabinet have acknowledged the need for a central, unifying effort – one that experts say is missing. Senior officials have also admitted that the government has failed to take steps necessary to give the Russians second thoughts about intervening in

American politics. Trump hasn't done so, and neither did Barack Obama, whose response to election meddling – expelling diplomats and closing Russian compounds in December 2016 – has been described by some of his own former aides as tepid.” The piece also highlights DNI Coats’ warnings about ongoing interference.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/27, Giaritelli, 340K) reports that the event came four days before top officials, including Pence, Nielsen, Wray, NSA Director Nakasone, and Energy Secretary Perry “hold a summit in Manhattan to discuss election security efforts.”

[USA Today](#) (7/27, Berry, Jackson, 11.4M) also runs a general report on the meeting.

Meanwhile, [CNN](#) (7/27, McLaughlin, O’#39;Sullivan, 82.6M) reports that with the midterms “only a few months away,” federal officials working to counter Russian election interference “have been operating with no strategy from the top, including from President Donald Trump’s fractured National Security Council, leaving each agency to fend for itself without White House support or direction, according to lawmakers and national security officials who spoke with CNN.”

Finally, [NPR](#) (7/29, Ewing, 3.55M) considers what it would look like if the President is correct in his assertion that Russian interference in 2018 will favor the Democrats.

[Wisconsin State Journal](#) (7/29, Atanesian, 369K) reports, “Russians have been testing the vulnerability of elections in Wisconsin and other states for years, and top U.S. intelligence officials have warned the 2018 midterm elections are a potential target of Russian cyberattacks and disinformation.” Some favor risk limiting post-election audits to verify vote totals, but changes to state law may be needed to implement them and “many Wisconsin election officials say the concern” over Russian election interference “is overblown.”

University professor Richard DeMillo writes in the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (7/27, 1.09M) reports, “most everyone agrees that Georgia’s aging, insecure voting machines must be replaced with a new system to increase public confidence.” However, the state government’s attempts to do so are being hamstrung but “false and misleading information.” DeMillo calls on Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp to “correct this misinformation and accurately explain the cybersecurity realities of election integrity.”

The [AP](#) (7/27, Volz) reports, “Montana’s top elections official said Friday that Russian hackers unsuccessfully probed the state’s election systems for weaknesses in 2016, an acknowledgment that contradicts his staff’s previous comments that Montana was not among the 21 or more states targeted.”

“Ethical hacker” Timothy Summers writes in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (7/27, Summers, 3.29M) about the workings of Russia’s 2016 hacking, propaganda and disinformation campaign.

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/27, 15.68M) says that contrary to “the hot air and deception,” the latest “disclosures about Russian interference with the 2016 U.S. presidential election offer a sobering glimpse of cyberconflict today.” The Post reports Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s “extraordinarily detailed indictment [against] uniformed military officers in a unit with a Moscow address” shows “this is not amateur hour.” The Post concludes that as “cyberconflict” rises in “the forefront of competition and coercion among states, with few rules of the road,” the US “must be ready for this assault from Russia and others, and clear-eyed about it. Mr. Trump said dismissively in December 2016 of the election hacking: ‘It could be somebody sitting in a bed someplace.’ Now we know it was not.”

## **Border Wall:**

**TRUMP THREATENS TO SHUT DOWN GOVERNMENT OVER BORDER WALL FUNDING.** On [Twitter](#) Sunday, President Trump threatened to shutdown the federal government unless Congress agrees to fund his immigration initiatives, most notably his border wall. Trump tweeted, “I would be willing to ‘shut down’ government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall! Must get rid of Lottery, Catch & Release etc. and finally go to system of Immigration based on MERIT! We need great people coming into our Country!” Media reports cast the President as at odds with congressional Republicans, who are seeking to avoid another shutdown ahead of November’s midterm elections.

The [AP](#) (7/29, Superville), for example, reports that “Republicans, trying to protect their majority in Congress, are playing down the chance of a shutdown as the November election nears. Trump, however, isn’t backing away from the idea.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/29, story 3, 1:10, Llamas, 5.24M) said the President is “coming out swinging” and “taking aim at Democrats on Twitter, threatening to shut down the government if they won’t fund his border wall...sharpening the political lines with 100 days until the midterms.” ABC’s Tara Palmeri said, “Members of the President’s own party speaking



out against the shutdown threat.” Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (7/29, Brennan, 2.9M), “I certainly don’t like playing shutdown politics. I don’t think it will be helpful, so let’s try and avoid it.”

To [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/29, story 2, 2:15, Snow, 5.08M), the President lit “a political firestorm” with “a provocative threat” to shut down the government. The President “sees immigration as a way to hammer Democrats this fall. ... Lawmakers in both parties are already approving big sections of the new budget to keep departments open, but GOP leaders gave the President bad news Wednesday: the vote to fund his border wall would come later this year, not in the heat of midterm races.” NBC said “neither party wants a government shutdown and the political blame that comes with it.”

[USA Today](#) (7/29, Brook, 11.4M) reports that Trump’s tweets come after a White House meeting last week where Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan “presented Trump with a plan that would fund the government and delay the debate over immigration until after the midterm elections in November.” [Breitbart](#) (7/29, Binder, 1.28M) likewise says that that “despite immigration being the number one issue for GOP voters in the midterm elections, Senate and House Republicans are already touting a plan to not fund the border wall before the midterms.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/29, Enjeti, 420K) reports that Trump’s tweet “is likely to spark a high stakes showdown with Democratic lawmakers who have pledged not to give in to his demands.” That fight “could lead right into the November midterm elections and put immigration as a centerpiece issue in the last stages of the campaign season.”

To the [New York Post](#) (7/29, Moore, 4.46M), “Trump spent much of the weekend at his golf resort in New Jersey railing about Democrats not supporting his immigration policies,” saying all they do is “Resist” and “Obstruct,” while claiming they want “Open Borders.” The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (7/29, Kugle, 67K) too says that “before the president tweeted his threat about shutting down the government, he also tweeted about immigration and how Congress needs to fix the ‘dumbest and worst’ immigration laws in the world.”

[Townhall](#) (7/29, Meads, 209K) notes that Trump “has made similar remarks in the past,” but the [Washington Post](#) (7/29, Rucker, Costa, Paletta, 15.68M) reports Sunday’s tweet “surprised some lawmakers who have been eager to avoid a bruising funding fight and highlighted his intense desire to make progress on signature agenda items that have stalled.” According to the Post, it is “unclear, though, whether simply threatening to shut down the government could push Democrats to agree to fund construction of the wall, particularly because Trump has backed down at the last minute repeatedly before.” Along similar lines, [Reuters](#) (7/29, Chiacu) says Trump is “betting that maintaining a hard line will work in Republicans’ favor in November congressional elections,” but cautions that a shutdown “could backfire on Trump if voters blame Republicans.”

According to [Politico](#) (7/29, Griffiths, 3.51M), “In private conversations with friends and advisers, Trump has sometimes mused that a government shutdown might be politically beneficial for him, arguing it could rally his base. But Republican congressional leaders strongly disagree with that theory, and they’ve repeatedly warned Trump about the potential negative political consequences of shuttering the government shortly before the midterms.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/29, Hughes, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports Andy Surabian, a Republican strategist and former White House official, said in an interview Sunday that Trump’s tweet will strike a chord with the die-hard Republicans. Said Surabian, “The midterms are going to come down to turnout. It’s going to be which base is more energized to turn out and vote. And there’s not an issue that touches the President’s base more strongly than immigration. Talking about immigration will help motivate Republicans to turn out in November.”

A [New York Times](#) (7/29, Stolberg, 19.33M) analysis says “congressional Republicans, already facing a difficult election landscape, confronted a prospect on Sunday they had worked feverishly to avoid: a threat by President Trump to shut down the government over funding for a border wall.” Last week, Republican leaders “thought they had reached a deal with Mr. Trump to delay a confrontation on funding for the wall until after the November midterm elections,” but Sunday’s tweet “has opened the door to a politically bruising spending fight as the fiscal year ends in September.”

***Fox’s Hegseth Urged Trump To Threaten Shutdown Over Border Wall Funding.*** The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/29, Lim, 340K) reports Fox News’ Pete Hegseth on Sunday “recommended that President Trump renew threats of a shutdown if Congress does not fund his proposed southern border wall.” The comment “came shortly before Trump tweeted about being willing to ‘shut down’ to government if his demands regarding border security aren’t met.” Said Hegseth on Fox News’ Fox & Friends Sunday, “I think the President would be wise to reiterate that he would shut it down if they won’t give a border wall.”

***Waters: Trump “Bluffing And Bullying” On Shutdown.*** [Breitbart](#) (7/29, Key, 1.28M) reports that in appearance Sunday on MSNBC, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) said Trump was “bluffing and bullying” with his tweet Sunday threatening a government shutdown. Said Waters, “You know, this President is a bully and he will try to intimidate all of us. He is not

going to shut down anything. As a matter of fact, people will remember that he said he was going to build this wall and he was going to make Mexico pay for the wall. They said they weren't going to pay for anything. Now he wants the American citizens to pay for this wall. American citizens are not going to pay for this wall, he is not going to shut down the government and we are not going to be intimidated by his bluffing and bullying."

**MCCONNELL: LAWMAKERS TO DELAY FUNDING FOR BORDER WALL UNTIL AFTER MIDTERMS.** [The Hill](#) (7/27, Carney, 2.71M) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell on Friday told [iHeartRadio](#) "that a battle over funding for the controversial U.S.-Mexico border wall would 'probably' wait until after the fall elections." According to The Hill, McConnell's comments came a day after he and House Speaker Ryan "met with Trump at the White House...to discuss how to fund the government" and after Ryan also "signaled...the fight over border wall funding could be pushed until after the Sept. 30 deadline."

**SAN DIEGO SEEKS TO REQUIRE CONTRACTORS TO DISCLOSE WORK ON BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/27, Morrissey, 4.03M) reports the San Diego City Council this week voted three to one to require "city officials draft an ordinance that would require contractors competing for city projects to disclose any past, present or planned bids, or actual work on parts of the president's promised border wall." However, the Times adds "it was not clear from the decision whether that disclosure might affect a contractor's ability to get city work or whether the city might publish a list of contractors who have connections to the wall."

## **Border Security:**

**NYTIMES PROFILES TEXAS BUS TERMINAL SERVING AS A "NEW ELLIS ISLAND."** In a more than 1,800-word article, the [New York Times](#) (7/27, Fernandez, Ferman, Panich-Linsman, Almukhtar, 19.33M) recounts how "for thousands of undocumented immigrants in South Texas, the crowded bus station in downtown McAllen has become a new, impromptu Ellis Island." According to the Times, "Like Ellis Island, the bus station is a portal – an entry and exit point in the migrants' monthslong journey to America's Southwest border and beyond. Yet unlike that historic gateway on New York Harbor, all of the immigrants passing through the McAllen bus terminal – young or old, healthy or sick – have effectively been jailed by the authorities when they first arrived in the United States."

**BORDER PATROL AGENTS FIND 14 PEOPLE BEING SMUGGLED INTO US IN TRUCK.** The [AP](#) (7/29) reports from Laredo, TX, "A truck driver has been arrested and Homeland Security authorities are investigating after 14 people in the country without legal permission were found hiding in a box truck at a South Texas Border Patrol checkpoint." According to the AP, "Officials say the 13 males and one female were inside moving boxes marked 'fragile.'" The AP adds, "An initial X-ray of the truck at an inspection checkpoint on Interstate 35 at Laredo detected irregularities that led to a closer examination of the cargo Friday," and "a dog accompanying agents also alerted officials." Authorities said "all 14 people being smuggled into the U.S. were from Mexico."

**TIGER CUB ABANDONED AT TEXAS BORDER GETS PERMANENT HOME.** The [AP](#) (7/27) reports from Wylie, TX, "A live tiger cub that was abandoned in a duffel bag at the U.S. border is settling into his new home in Texas." According to the AP, "Kenobi arrived Thursday night at In-Sync Exotics, an animal sanctuary in Wylie, 30 miles northeast of Dallas." Border Patrol agents "discovered the cub April 30 while patrolling along the Rio Grande near Brownsville." Agents "said three people apparently trying to enter the U.S. illegally just dumped the bag containing the tiger and fled back to Mexico." Kenobi "was initially given a temporary home at the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, but his move to In-Sync Exotics is permanent."

**BORDER PATROL AGENTS SHOOT MAN ACCUSED OF STEALING ATV IN CALIFORNIA.** The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/29, 470K) reports, "A man was shot early Sunday morning after officials say he struck a Border Patrol agent with a rock, knocked the agent off his ATV, and then stole the ATV and tried to flee, according to NBC 7." According to the Bee, "About 2:30 a.m., Border Patrol agents encountered the man in an area called Spooner's Mesa, between the U.S.-Mexico border and Monument Road, according to FOX 5." San Diego Police Capt. Thomas Underwood "told FOX 5 that a fight broke out after the encounter," and "Police Lt. Matt Dobbs told City News Service that the man hit an agent with a rock, knocked the agent off his ATV, and then stole the ATV and fled." Underwood "told FOX 5 that agents pursued the man and at least two Border Patrol agents fired at him during the chase, which ended when the man lost control of the ATV and crashed. 'CBP's Office of Professional Responsibility and U.S. Border Patrol, San Diego Sector is fully cooperating with all investigators,' Border Patrol said in a statement to NBC 7."

## **Aviation Security:**

**TSA'S "QUIET SKIES" PROGRAM TRACKS ORDINARY TRAVELERS.** The [Boston Globe](#) (7/28, Winter, 945K) reports, "Federal air marshals have begun following ordinary US citizens not suspected of a crime or on any terrorist watch list and

collecting extensive information about their movements and behavior under a new domestic surveillance program that is drawing criticism from within the agency.” According to the Globe, “The previously undisclosed program, called ‘Quiet Skies,’ specifically targets travelers who ‘are not under investigation by any agency and are not in the Terrorist Screening Data Base,’ according to a Transportation Security Administration bulletin in March.” The Globe adds, “The internal bulletin describes the program’s goal as thwarting threats to commercial aircraft ‘posed by unknown or partially known terrorists,’ and gives the agency broad discretion over which air travelers to focus on and how closely they are tracked,” but “some air marshals, in interviews and internal communications shared with the Globe, say the program has them tasked with shadowing travelers who appear to pose no real threat.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/29, story 8, 1:50, Llamas, 5.24M) reported on “a secret program involving air marshals, the TSA, and the behavior of everyday passengers being tracked.” ABC (Ramos) added, “A report in ‘The Boston Globe’ about a TSA program where passengers are secretly being watched on the plane and after they land without even knowing is raising some concerns.” ABC reported, “Armed undercover air marshals have been taking notes on what certain passengers do, who they talk to, even if they use the bathroom.” The Air Marshal Association president “is wary, releasing this statement to The Globe: ‘The Air Marshal Association believes that missions based on recognized intelligence, or in support of ongoing federal investigations, is the proper criteria for flight scheduling. Currently the Quiet Skies program does not meet the criteria we find acceptable.’”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/29, story 3, 2:05, Snow, 5.08M) reported, “When a traveler is selected for surveillance, a teamed of armed undercover air marshals is placed on the person’s next flight to or from dozens of American cities,” and they “keep close watch, taking note of whether the person uses a phone, fidgets, eats, changes clothes, or chats with other passengers.” The observations “are sent back to the TSA.” Travelers “are not notified when they’re being monitored.” The TSA, “in a statement to NBC News, says the program is not intended to surveil ordinary Americans,” and “senior government officials tell NBC News the quiet skies program has existed since 2010 and that the screening process has since evolved to include dozens of other factors such as suspicious financial transactions.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/29, A1, Ryan, Halsey, 15.68M) reports on its front page that though the Globe’s story revealed the existence of the program for the first time, it has existed since 2010. TSA spokesman James Gregory told the Post, “We are no different than the cop on the corner who is placed there because there is an increased possibility that something might happen. When you’re in a tube at 30,000 feet...it makes sense to put someone there.”

[Vox](#) (7/29, Stewart, 1.66M) reports, “All US citizens who come into the country are automatically screened for potential inclusion in Quiet Skies, and thousands of Americans have reportedly already been subject to surveillance at the airport and on their flights under the program.” Vox adds, “Travelers stay on the Quiet Skies watch list for up to 90 days or three encounters, and they’re never notified they’re on the list at all.” According to Vox, “Quiet Skies represents a major departure for TSA,” as “since the Sept. 11 attacks, the agency has traditionally placed armed air marshals on routes it considered potentially higher risk, or on flights with a passenger on a terrorist watch list.” Vox adds, “Deploying air marshals to gather intelligence on civilians not on a terrorist watch list is a new assignment, one that some air marshals say goes beyond the mandate of the US Federal Air Marshal Service.”

[The Hill](#) (7/29, Samuels, 2.71M) reports, “TSA officials told the Globe that the agency works to deter potential terrorist attacks, but declined to address the Quiet Skies program.” [Axios](#) (7/29, 2.49M) also reports.

**MINNESOTA AIRPORT WAIT TIMES NORMALIZED FOLLOWING TSA EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS.** The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/28, Walsh, 1.16M) reports TSA equipment problems “at three security screening stations” in the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport’s main terminal on Sunday caused delays for outbound travelers. Michelle Negron, a TSA spokesperson, “said that wait times grew by about 25 to 30 minutes until technicians could” normalize the situation.

## Immigration Policy:

**TRUMP: IMMIGRANTS CROSSING BORDER USE CHILDREN FOR “SINISTER PURPOSES.”** The [Washington Times](#) (7/29, Swoyer, 460K) reports that in a tweet Sunday, President Trump said “that many immigrants crossing the border are using children for ‘their own sinister purposes,’” and called on lawmakers to fix immigration laws. Trump [wrote](#), “Please understand, there are consequences when people cross our Border illegally, whether they have children or not – and many are just using children for their own sinister purposes. Congress must act on fixing the DUMBEST & WORST immigration laws anywhere in the world! Vote ‘R.’” In a separate tweet, Trump expressed a willingness to shut down the government if Congress’ spending bill does not include border security funds. Trump [wrote](#), “I would be willing to ‘shut down’ government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall! Must get rid of Lottery, Catch & Release etc. and finally go to system of Immigration based on MERIT! We need great people coming into our Country!”



**COURT FILING CLAIMS IMMIGRANT FAMILIES SUFFERED IN US DETENTION.** The [Washington Times](#) (7/29, Dinan, 460K) reports, "Illegal immigrant families are furious at the treatment they received after being detained at the border, complaining of bad burritos, cold soups, being forced to drink water out of toilets and contagious disease outbreaks that have swept through the facilities." According to the Times, "The complaints are detailed in a massive court filing on behalf of illegal immigrant children that claims the government is breaking its promise to provide quality care for juveniles who end up in the custody of the Homeland Security Department." The Times adds, "Several parents said their children contracted chickenpox from others in detention, the chill of the facilities was a universal complaint, and a number of families objected to the food situation." The reports "stem from the first stage of immigration detention, when migrants are nabbed immediately after crossing into the US."

**WPOST A1 DETAILS PROBLEMS BEHIND DELAYS IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FAMILY REUNIFICATION.** In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (7/28, A1, Miroff, Goldstein, Sacchetti, 15.68M) details the problems that delayed the Trump Administration's efforts to reunify illegal immigrant families. According to the Post, Customs and Border Protection data failed to properly categorize separated families, forcing Health and Human Services employees to manually sift through the files and crippling a "crucial tool for fixing the problem." The Post goes on to detail the Administration's rationale behind separating the families, as well as the "raw emotional backlash" to the policy. However, "people inside and outside HHS's Office of Refugee Resettlement recognized" the database "was clunky and flawed" long "before Trump took office," and immigration groups were complaining about a "steady increase in the number of families being separated at the border" before Trump was sworn in. According to the ACLU, the flaws could make it "take months to track down hundreds of deported parents and make arrangements to return their children."

**Illegal Immigrant Girl Flees Florida Detention Facility, Hides In Auto Shop.** The [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Rozsa, 15.68M) reports a 15-year-old Honduran illegal immigrant fled a Florida detention facility on Friday while being transported for an eye exam. The girl hid in an auto shop "for more than an hour...refusing to move," while employees provided her with "water and some food." Police eventually came to the shop, "spoke to the girl in Spanish and treated her girl gently, but she was afraid." Despite her refusal to go back to the facility, police say was returned "without incident."

**TRUMP EMPHASIZES SUPPORT FOR ICE IN WEEKLY ADDRESS.** [Breitbart](#) (7/28, Hanchett, 1.28M) reports President Trump reiterated his Administration's support for ICE during his [weekly address](#). Trump highlighted how ICE "arrested more than 127,000 aliens charged or convicted of crimes inside of the United States" in 2017, and praised the "courageous public servants at ICE." He also accused Democrats seeking to abolish the agency of supporting "open borders and more crime."

**Landrieu: "I Don't Think Abolishing ICE Is A Good Idea."** [The Hill](#) (7/29, Greenwood, 2.71M) reports, "Former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu (D) distanced himself on Sunday from calls by some other Democrats to abolish U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), saying that doing so is not 'a good idea.' 'I don't think abolishing ICE is a good idea, primarily because when police departments get out of the way, do the wrong thing or are governed in the wrong way, you don't say get rid of the police department,' Landrieu said on CNN's 'State of the Union.' 'You reform the police department.'" Landrieu "said the U.S. is a 'nation of immigrants' but also a 'nation of laws,' adding that Congress has been 'remiss' not to pursue comprehensive immigration reform."

**Twitter Vaulted "Abolish ICE" Into The Mainstream.** [The Hill](#) (7/29, Breland, 2.71M) reports, "Calls to 'Abolish ICE' began as an obscure Twitter hashtag created by liberal activists," and "it's now a movement supported by prominent progressive leaders and candidates in races across the country and the center of a heated debate in Democratic circles." According to The Hill, "The viral campaign pushing for the elimination of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency is the latest example of how Twitter has become a tool for groups outside the mainstream to get their ideas in front of power brokers." The Hill adds, "Writer and activist Sean McElwee, who is credited with creating the #AbolishICE hashtag, told The Hill that Twitter's platform and its reach created a unique opportunity to spread the idea. 'It is generally true that having a strong presence on Twitter will give it legs in the real world because people who influence real-world stuff are on Twitter,' he said." McElwee "first tweeted it in February 2017 and keep advocating ending the agency to his over 70,000 followers."

**DREAMER PROTECTIONS IN DHS SPENDING BILL TIED TO MORE BORDER WALL FUNDING.** [Bloomberg Government](#) (7/27) reports in its "Dreamer Protections Homeland" blog, "A bipartisan provision to give undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children a one-year reprieve was included in a House Homeland Security spending measure that also would fund President Donald Trump's border barrier in a move that could become Congress's substitute for a broader immigration compromise." The House Appropriations Committee "approved an amendment by Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.) to their fiscal 2019 Homeland Security spending bill that would bar Immigrations [sic] and Customs Enforcement from detaining or deporting undocumented immigrants under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program who retain their eligibility for the program by maintaining a clean criminal record." The provision "would

protect the so-called Dreamers from the threat of deportation for the fiscal year from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2019.” According to Bloomberg Government, “The measure was a Republican olive branch in an otherwise partisan bill that includes \$5 billion for a border wall and fencing.”

**FEDERAL JUDGE TO APPOINT SPECIAL MONITOR TO OVERSEE MIGRANT DETENTION FACILITIES.** [NPR](#) (7/27, Small, 3.55M) reports that US District Judge Dolly Gee “said she’ll appoint an independent monitor to look into reports of neglect and abuse of children at facilities along the U.S.-Mexico border.” The decision “comes after immigration lawyers argued that the Trump administration has been holding children and their parents in inhumane conditions.” According to NPR, “The government denied the allegations, and opposed the appointment of a monitor.” At a hearing on Friday, Judge Gee “said she reached her decision after seeing a ‘disconnect’ between government monitors’ assessment of conditions in facilities in the Rio Grande Valley, and the accounts of more than 200 immigrant children and their parents detailing numerous problems, including spoiled food and foul-smelling water.” After the hearing, attorney Peter Schey of The Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law “said the problems are pervasive in facilities all along the Southwest border.” Judge Gee “oversees the Flores settlement, a 1997 settlement agreement that says the government has to release migrant children from custody to a relative, sponsor or a facility licensed to care for children within 72 hours.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/27, Castillo, 4.03M) reports, “A monitor is expected to be appointed within a few weeks.” Schey “said the monitor will oversee all three family detention centers run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement – two in Texas and one in Pennsylvania – as well as Border Patrol facilities in the Rio Grande sector along the Texas border.” According to the Times, “Schey’s group filed a motion seeking an independent monitor for the Rio Grande sector after lawyers observed inhumane conditions there,” and “he said his team will discuss in the coming weeks whether to file another motion asking that the monitor also oversee all other Border Patrol facilities along the border.”

**AP ANALYSIS: CENTRAL AMERICANS FACE OBSTACLES TO LEGAL IMMIGRATION.** The [AP](#) (7/29, Taxin) reports, “At a time when President Donald Trump and other conservatives are repeatedly calling on people to come here legally, most immigrants have few options to do so under the country’s complex immigration system.” Trump “has again endorsed the legal immigration route in recent weeks amid the furor over his administration’s policy of separating children from parents at the border, saying the immigrants should be sent home and they can try to come back with legal papers in hand,” but “the realities of legal immigration in the U.S. aren’t quite that simple.” According to the AP, “Getting a visitor’s visa – known as a B-2 visa – requires proving a certain amount of wealth that most in developing countries like El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras don’t have,” and “other visas require specialized skills, a corporate sponsor or an American relative who will sponsor them in a process that can take years due to a complex quota system.”

**LAWSUIT CLAIMS MIGRANT FATHERS WERE SEPARATED FROM CHILDREN AGAIN AFTER REUNIFICATION.** [The Hill](#) (7/29, Birnbaum, 2.71M) reports, “A court filing on Saturday night alleges at least four migrant fathers were separated from their children again after being reunited with them briefly this week.” According to The Hill, “The declaration, which was obtained by Mother Jones, was filed as part of the class-action lawsuit on behalf of migrant parents who wish to be reunited with their children. It alleges that the four fathers were given three ‘choices’ when the government reunited them with their children: First, to be deported with their children; second, agree for the children to stay in the U.S. if the parent loses the immigration case; or third, to speak to a lawyer before making the decision.” The fathers “are claiming the first option was already selected for them.”

**JUDGE RULES ADMINISTRATION CANNOT PENALIZE CHICAGO OVER CITY’S SANCTUARY POLICIES.** The [Washington Times](#) (7/27, Dinan, 460K) reports the Administration “suffered another legal defeat on its sanctuary city crackdown” on Friday when US District Judge Harry Leinenweber “permanently blocked the government from retaliating against Chicago’s sanctuary policy by stripping away its police grant money.” Leinenweber “said the administration is free to track down illegal immigrants on its own, but it cannot force Chicago to cooperate in reporting or turning them over.” The ruling “follows similar defeats for the Trump administration in California and Philadelphia, where judges have also ruled against the administration’s attempts to condition Byrne Justice Assistance Grant money on better cooperation on immigration.”

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (7/27, 2.37M) reports that Judge Leinenweber “agreed with the city, granting a permanent injunction against all three of the conditions the Justice Department sought to impose. ‘Today’s opinion in favor of Chicago and against the Trump Justice Department marks a major win for all Chicagoans and a significant victory for public safety,’ Mayor Rahm Emanuel said in a Friday statement. ‘We will never be coerced or intimidated into abandoning our values as a welcoming city. Welcoming immigrants, refugees and dreamers from every corner of the globe is part of Chicago’s history, and part of our future, no matter which way the political winds are blowing in Washington.’”

**UNITED AIRLINES DONATES FLIGHTS TO REUNITE SEPARATED FAMILIES.** [The Hill](#) (7/27, Thomsen, 2.71M) reports that United Airlines has donated airline “flights to help reunited immigrant families that were separated at the U.S.’s southern border.” The immigrants rights group FWD.us said in a statement that “A growing community of support is

coming together to reunite families who were separated at the border,” and “We are so thankful and happy to announce that United Airlines is jumping in and helping.” United is also among the airlines that have said they “would not allow federal authorities to use their planes to transport migrant children separated from their families.”

**GOP SENATORS PROPOSE FIXING FLORES AGREEMENT.** In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (7/29, 11.4M), GOP Sens. Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis and Ted Cruz write that for years, Congress “has failed to take one simple step which could have prevented the family separations we now decry: repealing the Flores v. Reno consent decree as it relates to families.” According to the lawmakers, the decree “required immigration authorities to release children from custody within 20 days in favor of finding foster families or other placements,” but in 2015, “a single court in California expanded Flores to children with their families, an expansion with dramatic consequences.” Congress “needs to make clear that the Flores consent decree does not apply to family units,” and that “federal authorities would have the ability to keep families together pending the outcome of their immigration case.”

**WPOST: CITIZENSHIP QUESTION SHOULD BE STRICKEN FROM 2020 CENSUS.** The [Washington Post](#) (7/29, 15.68M) editorializes that a new question on the 2020 Census form asking respondents about citizenship status looked, from the beginning, “like a ruse to punish blue states.” Because “the count determines where federal money goes and how many congressional seats and presidential electors each state gets,” and the question is likely to discourage immigrants from taking part in the survey, “large cities with high immigrant populations – which tend to be in blue states – would lose out.” The Post says Commerce Secretary Ross should strike the question from the 2020 Census or “Congress should do it for him.”

## **Immigration Enforcement:**

**PHILADELPHIA ENDS DATA-SHARING CONTRACT WITH ICE.** The [AP](#) (7/28, Lauer) reports, “Philadelphia will stop giving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to a real-time arrest database, saying the agency is misusing the information to conduct sweeps in which otherwise law-abiding immigrants are also being caught up,” but “federal officials said the decision puts U.S. citizens in danger. ‘We’re not going to provide them with information so they can go out and round people up,’ Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney said Friday as he announced his decision to let a decade-old contract with ICE expire at the end of next month.” Kenney “said immigration officers are wrongly using the database to go to homes and workplaces of people who list foreign countries of origin and arresting other people who are in the country illegally but are otherwise not accused of any crimes.” DHS spokeswoman Katie Waldman “called the decision irresponsible and said the city will end up ‘harboring criminal aliens.’ ‘Sanctuary-city policies make American communities like Philadelphia less safe by putting the rights of criminal aliens over the safety and security of American citizens,’ Waldman said.”

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (7/27, Gammage, 1.07M) reports, “The decision comes after months of consultation with community groups, lawyers and immigrant advocates, and follows weeks of tumultuous protests by anti-ICE demonstrators, who on Wednesday took over and held a City Hall stairway.” Kenney “said he had grown concerned that ICE was using the database ‘in inappropriate ways,’ including to conduct investigations of undocumented immigrants in Philadelphia who had not broken any other laws.” The Inquirer says, “That sows fear and distrust in immigrant communities, the mayor said, with the effect of discouraging crime victims and witnesses from coming forward and, in turn, making it harder for Philadelphia police to solve crimes.” The Inquirer adds, “Discussions with ICE officials did not allay those concerns – it confirmed them, Kenney said.”

**MENENDEZ WOULD NOT SUPPORT ICE CONTRACT WITH JAIL.** [NJ News](#) (7/28, 1.17M) reports that Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) on Friday “weighed in on Hudson County’s decision to renew its financial agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, saying if he were in charge he would not support ‘ICE’s mission as it relates to detaining individuals.’” Menendez “appeared at Boulevard Diner to speak with more than a dozen women about November’s midterm elections,” and was asked about “the county’s decision, approved by its freeholders on July 12, to renew its multi-year contract with ICE to house immigrant detainees in the county’s Kearny jail. ‘That’s a decision for the county to make,’ he said. ‘From my perspective, I would not be supporting, in any dimension, if I had the ability, ICE’s mission as it relates to detaining individuals, particularly those who are just seeking a better pathway to their lives or who are seeking asylum.’”

**WIFE OF MILITARY VETERAN SET TO BE DEPORTED NEXT MONTH.** [Newsweek](#) (7/26, Perez, 2.18M) reports Alejandra Juarez, the “wife of a retired US Marine and Iraq war combat veteran,” is “set to be deported by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement early next month.” Juarez, 38, “was told by ICE officials that she has nine days left in the US before she is deported back to Mexico.”

**TEENAGER TOLD SHE WILL LIKELY BE DEPORTED.** [Arizona Public Media](#) (7/26, Montoya) reports 17-year-old Jesse Tomas “from Guatemala may be spending her final days in the United States awaiting deportation, according to the judge

evaluating her immigration case.” After an initial meeting with ICE on Thursday, Jesse “said she and her father Tomas were told that they will likely be deported back to Guatemala.”

**EXPERTS WARN ICE COURTHOUSE ARRESTS COULD MEAN WITNESSES, VICTIMS WON'T SHOW UP.** [ABC News](#) (7/27, Forde, 1.85M) reports, “A mother of two is fighting to stay in the country after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested her and her teen son, both victims of alleged domestic violence, at a North Carolina courthouse earlier this month.” According to ABC News, “The plainclothes ICE agents approached Maria, 38, and her son, 16, as they finished a hearing at Mecklenburg County Court, her public defender said. ‘I was heading toward the elevators and I saw Maria’s 16-year-old son being handcuffed,’ Herman Little, her public defender, told ABC News.” ICE “arrested Maria July 9 because of the two pending criminal charges – misdemeanor simple assault and misdemeanor larceny – her alleged abuser filed against her, the agency said,” and “ICE released her the same day, before the county dropped the two criminal charges against her two weeks later because of insufficient evidence, a Mecklenburg County official said.” ABC News adds that “as ICE steps up its enforcement actions, including at courthouses, experts warn that such arrests could have a chilling effect on immigrants’ willingness to access and participate in the criminal justice system.”

## **Criminal Investigations:**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT, NONPROFITS UNITE TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.** The [McAllen \(TX\) Monitor](#) (7/28, Smith, 93K) reports from Pharr, TX, “While the Rio Grande Valley’s status as a major smuggling corridor is no secret, law enforcement agencies and nonprofit organizations are working to expose the presence of human traffickers and trafficking victims ahead of Monday’s World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.” The Monitor adds, “There are key distinctions between smuggling, which involves a crime against a border, and trafficking, which involves a crime against a person, said Michael Renaud, a special agent with Homeland Security Investigations.” Smuggling “is transportation-based, while trafficking is exploitation-based, and smuggling is voluntary while trafficking is involuntary and involves force, fraud or coercion. ‘Smuggling and trafficking can overlap,’ Renaud said, noting that people who are smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border can become human trafficking victims when forced to work in order to pay their smuggling fee.”

**“OPERATION DOUBLE TROUBLE” NETS ARRESTS OF 22 UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS.** [Townhall](#) (7/29, Meads, 209K) reports that the Justice Department “announced charges against 25 individuals on Friday who committed fraud using Puerto Rican identities in an effort to gain government benefits and in some cases even vote.” According to Townhall, “22 of the 25 charged were illegal aliens, many with records of drug dealing, violent crimes, and some previously deported.” Townhall adds, “Impostors regularly use birth certificates and social security cards stolen or copied from Puerto Ricans to pose as American citizens in order to receive Medicare, evade arrest, and take advantage of welfare benefits such as EBT cards and food stamps.” The Justice Department said that in a sting operation known as, “Operation Double Trouble,” federal authorities were “able to nab 25 individuals who took advantage of poor oversight at Massachusetts’ Registry of Motor Vehicles and steal people’s identities.”

**FORMER NEW JERSEY CORRECTIONS OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE.** [NJ News](#) (7/27, 1.17M) reports, “A former state Department of Corrections officer admitted in Newark federal court Friday to receiving images of child sexual abuse.” Stephen Salamak “faces a maximum 20-year prison term and must register as a sex offender after he pleaded guilty to receipt of child pornography, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.” According to NJ News, “The former East Jersey State Prison officer was arrested in October after an undercover investigator responded to a Craigslist ad posted by Salamak that sought to ‘connect with mothers who were “into perverted topics,”’ according to a criminal complaint.” Salamak “emailed with the undercover officer about a possible encounter with who he believed was the mother’s 8-year-old daughter, according to the complaint,” and “the 38-year-old also made sexual comments related to the child.” Homeland Security Investigations agents “searched Salamak’s personal email account, where they discovered a message with child pornography included, according to court filings.”

**OWNER OF THREE MESSAGE PARLORS INDICTED FOR USING INTERNET TO PROMOTE PROSTITUTION.** The [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (7/29, Feathers, 122K) reports federal prosecutors have indicted Ken D. Ma, the owner of Oakworks Therapy in Exeter, New Hampshire, for using the Internet to promote prostitution at that massage parlor and two others in the state. The indictment came eight months after a raid of the Exeter parlor prompted some individuals to post about the situation on one of several websites “that help illegal businesses operate.” The Union Leader adds that in “recent years, euphemistic advertisements for illicit massage businesses have become easy to find online, at websites like backpage.com, which has been shut down since the FBI seized it in April.”

**PORTLAND FBI’S CHILD EXPLOITATION TASK FORCE PART OF OPERATION THAT NETTED FIVE SUSPECTS.** The [Hood River \(OR\) News](#) (7/28) reported that five males were arrested earlier this month, after representatives of the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office and the “Portland FBI’s Child Exploitation Task Force conducted a joint operation with assistance from the Columbia Gorge Major Crimes Team and Hood River County District Attorney’s Office.” The aim of the operation was “to identify and apprehend individuals seeking to commit sexual acts with minor children.”



## Secret Service:

**NYPD DETERMINES “SUSPICIOUS ITEMS” FOUND AT TRUMP TOWER WERE USB CHARGES.** The [AP](#) (7/28) reports the New York Police Department’s counterterrorism chief, James Waters, on Friday announced that “suspicious items found inside Trump Tower have been determined to be harmless.” Eric Trump [tweeted](#), “Thank you to the @NYPD and @SecretService for their professionalism. Turned out being USB chargers but always better to be safe than sorry.”

**POLICE INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE COUNTERFEIT MONEY SCHEME IN ARIZONA.** The [Prescott \(AZ\) Daily Courier](#) (7/28, Efrein, 42K) reported that the Prescott Police Department is investigating whether counterfeit money schemers may have targeted a local Wal-Mart and a local medical marijuana dispensary. The Daily Courier highlighted that the “United States Secret Service recommends taking” several actions when presented with a possible counterfeit bill, including observing physical characteristics of the bill passer.

**AIRCRAFT DIVERTED AFTER VIOLATING TRUMP-RELATED FLIGHT RESTRICTION.** The [Lehigh Valley \(PA\) Express Times](#) (7/28, Bresswein, 314K) reported that Secret Service spokesperson Julia McMurray said an aircraft recently violated a “temporary flight restriction near Bedminster, New Jersey.” The restriction was set up because President Trump was spending time at his golf club in Bedminster, according to the Express Times article, which highlighted that McMurray said, “Military aircraft were launched” in response to the flight restriction violation. She stated that the course of the in-violation aircraft was “diverted...without incident.”

**ROBBERY SUSPECTS ARRESTED BY SECRET SERVICE, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.** An online [WGHP-TV](#) Greensboro, NC (7/27, 142K) article said representatives of the Secret Service, the Greensboro Police Department, the Guilford County Sheriff’s Department and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation have arrested five people “in connection with a number of commercial robberies in Greensboro and surrounding areas.” The suspects, arrested on Friday morning, “all face charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon.”

## Emergency Response:

**BOND PART OF EFFORT TO EXPAND PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT IN FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.** The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/27, Blunt, 2.14M) reported that FEMA is “taking an unprecedented step to expand private involvement in its flood insurance program,” in part by issuing a “first-ever catastrophe bond.” Investors and industry experts “anticipate that expansion of private involvement in the program will eventually require FEMA to raise premiums” for policyholders, especially those who live in flood-prone areas such as Houston.

**FEMA RELEASES TERRORIST ATTACKS PLANNING GUIDE.** [American Security Today](#) (7/29, Waitt) reports FEMA has released a guide that aims “to aid community partners in planning and preparing for complex coordinated terrorist attack scenarios.” The article says “Planning Considerations: Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks” is the official title of the [guide](#).

## Coast Guard:

**OFF-DUTY COAST GUARD OFFICER RESCUES TWO SWIMMERS.** [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (7/27, Escobar, 1.52M) reported that Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Victoria Vanderhaden recently rescued two men who were “swimming off the coast of Fire Island.” Vanderhaden, who is assigned to Coast Guard Station Eatons Neck, was off-duty during last Tuesday night’s rescue. She stated, “I know other people would have done the same thing.”

**PRE-VOYAGE RECORDINGS RETRIEVED BY MISSOURI BOAT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATORS.** The [AP](#) (7/28, Laris) reported, “Shortly before their fatal voyage, the crew” of a duck boat that recently sank in Missouri “was told to head out on the water before taking their passengers on their road tour around the scenic Ozark Mountains, according to video and audio recordings retrieved from the vessel by federal investigators.” The AP added, “The NTSB, working with the Coast Guard, the National Weather Service, Missouri authorities and Ride the Ducks Branson, the tour operator, is continuing to investigate the cause of the accident,” which caused 17 deaths.

**MONTAUK LIGHTHOUSE RESIDENT MOVING TO MAINE.** The [New York Times](#) (7/29, Dollinger, 19.33M) reports 62-year-old Margaret A. Winski, who has resided in the Montauk Lighthouse since the Coast Guard turned the facility over to the Montauk Historical Society in 1987, is moving to Maine. She will be replaced by 63-year-old Joseph Gaviola, a “member of the lighthouse board,” who said he considers the move to be the start of an adventure. But, he added, the lighthouse is a “National Historic Landmark, and we want and require somebody to be in attendance there.”



## Cyber News:

**DHS ASSESSING RISKS TO ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE.** [GovernmentCIO](#) (7/29, Ziadeh) reports, "Election infrastructure became officially recognized as a critical infrastructure subsector in 2017, and the Homeland Security Department has been working with federal, state and local partners to bolster information sharing and provide the resources needed to secure election systems and plan for response." According to GovernmentCIO, "Election integrity is just one of the many topics Christopher Krebs, DHS undersecretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate, talks about on the inaugural episode of CyberCast. 'I've spent a lot of time over the last year or so focused on the election security issue,' he tells podcast hosts Kiersten Todt and Roger Cressey. 'The interesting thing about the way elections are run in the U.S....it falls to the responsibility of state and local governments to administer and execute even national elections,'" and "that's close to 10,000 election jurisdictions nationally, Krebs says." GovernmentCIO adds, "From a broader IT security perspective, state and local governments are not necessarily resourced on an annual basis for equipment refreshes, like upgrading licensing for operating systems or platforms," so "Krebs says DHS works to provide intelligence and information sharing, technical services, and instant response planning and exercises."

**MCCONNELL: ELECTION SECURITY A MATTER FOR STATE, LOCAL OFFICIALS.** The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (7/27, Bailey, 419K) reports, "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said this week Russians 'better quit messing around' in U.S. elections, but then said Friday securing ballots is up to state and local officials." The Courier-Journal adds, "McConnell's office said he has called on several Senate committees to examine and make recommendations on additional steps that could respond to or deter Russian interference. But it remains unclear what specific action is being taken to block those cyber attacks."

**RUSSIAN HACKERS SHIFTING FOCUS TO US POWER GRID, OFFICIALS WARN.** The [New York Times](#) (7/27, Sanger, 19.33M) reports "state-sponsored Russian hackers appear far more interested this year in demonstrating that they can disrupt the American electric utility grid than the midterm elections, according to United States intelligence officials and technology company executives." The Times states that "despite attempts to infiltrate the online accounts of two Senate Democrats up for re-election, intelligence officials said they have seen little activity by Russian military hackers aimed at either major American political figures or state voter registration systems." The Times adds that in "comparison, according to intelligence officials and executives of the companies that oversee the world's computer networks, there is surprisingly far more effort directed at implanting malware in the electrical grid."

[The Hill](#) (7/28, Bowden, 2.71M) says the New York Times report "comes days after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported that the scope of Russian intrusions was far greater than previously realized, and that Russian hackers gained access to the control rooms of power plants across the country."

Frank J. Cilluffo and Sharon L. Cardash write in [Government Computer News](#) (7/27, Cilluffo) that the dangers of hacking electric grids "underscore the importance of international agreement on what constitutes an act of war in cyberspace and the need for clear rules of engagement."

[Newsweek](#) (7/28, Brennan, 2.18M) reports similarly.

**PENTAGON DEVELOPING SOFTWARE BLACKLIST IDENTIFYING RUSSIAN, CHINESE VENDORS.** [Reuters](#) (7/27, Stone) reports that the "Pentagon is working on a software 'do not buy' list to block vendors who use software code originating from Russia and China" to help the Defense Department's "acquisitions staff and industry partners avoid buying problematic code for the Pentagon and suppliers." Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Ellen Lord, told reporters Friday, "What we are doing is making sure that we do not buy software that has Russian or Chinese provenance, for instance, and quite often that's difficult to tell at first glance because of holding companies." Lord's remarks "were made ahead of the likely passage of the Pentagon's spending bill by Congress as early as next week." Provisions in the bill "would force technology companies to disclose if they allowed countries like China and Russia to examine the inner workings of software sold to the U.S. military."

[Reuters](#) (7/27, Stone) reports Lord also told reporters that an upcoming industrial base report on the US military supply chain will reveal that "there is a large focus on dependency on foreign countries for supply, and China figures very prominently." Lord "did not provide further detail but said the report is currently in the hands of the White House, and will be published within a month." According to Reuters, the report is "the latest example of Pentagon efforts to deal with the military's interactions with Chinese products," and its publication "will come amid growing concerns from members of Congress and the U.S. intelligence community that Chinese telecommunications equipment is being used to spy on Americans."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/27, Tiron, 4.46M) reports similarly.

In its broadcast, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/27, Wallace, 2.02M) highlighted the “growing concern” from US intelligence officials “about China’s long-term goals.” Speaking at a national security conference, FBI Director Wray said his agency is conducting economic espionage investigations in all 50 states that all “trace back to China.” At the same conference, US Army Secretary Esper warned: “The long-term threat is clearly China. That’s the strategic competitor that we look to.” Ellen McCarthy, President Trump’s nominee for assistant secretary of state, highlighted the China threat during her confirmation hearing, while USTR Lighthizer “defended tariffs against an aggressive China” in remarks before a Senate panel. Meanwhile, DNI Coats warned of China’s efforts to expand its physical reach, saying: “You see them spreading their influence, whether it’s the Coral Islands or whether it’s strategic ports and so forth, they’ve got a long-term strategy.”

**FOREIGN HACKERS TARGET DC CITY EMPLOYEES IN PHISHING ATTEMPT.** The [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Nirappil, 15.68M) reports District of Columbia city employees were “the target of a hacking attempt from overseas earlier this week, said local officials who have referred the matter to federal authorities for investigation.” An estimated 30,000 DC employees “received strange emails on Tuesday that attempted to lure them into revealing their passwords and other sensitive information.” City officials do not believe any information “was compromised as a result of the phishing attacks, and said they ‘successfully defended’ against the attack.” While it was not “clear who generated the emails,” the Post says that “Russia is suspected of deploying” phishing attacks “as part of its interference in the 2016 presidential race.”

**HACKERS PLANNED TO USE DC POLICE COMPUTERS TO TRANSMIT RANSOMWARE.** The [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Hermann, 15.68M) reports that the 2017 hack of DC police department surveillance cameras “appeared...limited to elicit a single ransom payment,” but “court documents show the alleged scheme that January was far more ambitious.” The Post says, “Federal authorities say two Romanians accused in the hacking planned to use the police department computers to email ransomware to more than 179,000 accounts. That would have allowed them to extort those users as well – and use D.C. government computers to hide their digital tracks.”

**2019 NDAA WOULD ESTABLISH CYBERSPACE SOLARIUM COMMISSION.** [Defense Systems](#) (7/27, Williams, 93K) reports, “The final 2019 National Defense Authorization Act could bring the U.S. one step closer to developing a cyber warfare doctrine.” The bill would establish a Cyberspace Solarium Commission to “develop a consensus on a strategic approach to defending the United States in cyberspace against cyber attacks of significant consequences.”

**MALWARE ATTACK INVOLVES SENDING SOFTWARE IN THE MAIL.** [Forbes](#) (7/27, Mathews, 10.34M) reports that a “recent string” of cyberattacks involves “sending malware in the mail” in “suspicious envelopes [that] appear to bear China Post markings.” State archives, one state’s Department of Cultural Affairs, and historical societies have received the packages. Forbes says, “The hackers could be looking for a back door – hoping to infect a computer somewhere it won’t be detected quickly in order to do reconnaissance on a bigger target. Then again, it could be an unsophisticated ransomware attack that’s aimed at low-hanging fruit.”

**WALDRON: US SHOULD PROTECT SPACE ASSETS FROM CYBERATTACKS.** R Street Institute research analyst Kathryn Waldron writes in [The Hill](#) (7/28, Waldron, 2.71M) that the US “has significant security interests in space – in the form of our satellites – that we need to protect, especially against cyber threats.” Waldron says satellites “offer hackers a variety of access points,” and “attacks can range from stealing data to sending fake or corrupt data to a complete shutdown of all the satellite’s operations.”

**DHS: CYBERCRIMINALS INCREASINGLY HACKING CORPORATE APPLICATIONS.** [Fox News](#) (7/27, Crothers, 16.38M) reports, “Criminals on the dark web have a growing appetite for hacking into corporate applications, a new alert from the Department of Homeland Security says.” The department “pointed to research from cybersecurity firms Onapsis and Digital Shadows that shows cybercriminals targeting so-called Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) applications, which typically hold a company’s most sensitive data and critical business processes.”

**FEDERAL CIO POINTS TO LACK OF FEDERAL TECH TALENT.** [FedScoop](#) (7/27, Mitchell) reports federal CIO Suzette Kent “repeatedly pointed to the lack of tech talent as the root of agencies’ perennial cybersecurity woes” in Wednesday House testimony. Kent is quoted saying, “In many cases, we still have almost a 25 percent gap in the number of cybersecurity resources we need across federal agencies and what we actually have in place.”

**VIRUS SHUTS DOWN CITY GOVERNMENT COMPUTER INFRASTRUCTURE IN VALDEZ, ALASKA.** The [AP](#) (7/28) reports, “The city of Valdez has shut down its entire computer infrastructure in the wake of a virus.” The Valdez Police Department “says the computer virus was detected early Friday, forcing a shutdown of city computers and servers as a precaution.” Police “say the city is getting assistance from the FBI’s Cyber Crimes Unit to isolate the virus.” The AP adds that “it’s the same virus that has shown up around the country and recently affected the Mat-Su Borough.”

**ONLINE SCAMMERS LURK IN EMAIL THREAD TO HIJACK HOME SALES.** [The Oregonian](#) (7/27, 815K) reports on an attempted real estate scam, in which Pauline and Ben Weintraub received an email message suggesting they wire

\$379,000 to avoid delaying a transaction for their dream house. Investigators “say the Weintraubs appear to have fallen victim to a new, insidious online scam. Hackers somehow obtained access to the email conversation with their broker and title company, then impersonated the broker and sent a fraudulent account number for the wire transfer.” The FBI “told The Miami Herald that criminals running this kind of scam tried to divert nearly \$1 billion from real estate transactions during the last fiscal year through fraudulent wire transfers, up from just \$19 million the prior year.”

**FORMER US INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS WARN OF WIDESPREAD ESPIONAGE IN SILICON VALLEY.** In a more than 4,100-word piece for [Politico Magazine](#) (7/27, 3.45M) under the headline “How Silicon Valley Became A Den Of Spies,” Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs senior fellow Zach Dorfman says former US intelligence officials are warning that “there’s a full-on epidemic of espionage on the West Coast right now,” in large part “because of increasing Russian and Chinese aggressiveness, and the local concentration of world-leading science and technology firms.” Further complicating the situation, according to the former officials, is that many of these foreign spies “aren’t based out of embassies or consulates, and may be associated with a state-owned business or research institute rather than an intelligence agency.” One former intelligence official “told [Dorfman] that, at one point recently, a full 20 percent of all the FBI’s active counterintelligence-related intellectual property cases had originated in the Bay Area.”

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (7/27, Baron, 552K) reported “a former U.S. intelligence official told online magazine Politico” in the article “that local Russian and East European prostitutes may be getting money from Russia to target high-powered techies and VCs at the posh Rosewood hotel’s lounge on Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park.” The Mercury News reported that the Rosewood, “in a statement, disputed the report.”

[PBS NewsHour](#) (7/29, 759K) posted video, audio, and the transcript of an appearance by Dorfman discussing the Politico article with Hari Sreenivasan.

## **Terrorism Investigations:**

**MICHIGAN MAN CHARGED WITH AIDING ISIS CONSENTS TO DETENTION.** The [AP](#) (7/27) reports Ibraheem Musaibli, a 28-year-old Detroit-area man who “was captured on a Syrian battlefield and charged with providing support to the Islamic State group,” appeared for “a brief hearing Friday in federal court.” During the hearing, Musaibli “consented to detention” pending trial and “entered a plea of not guilty.”

**MAN CHARGED IN MILWAUKEE MASS SHOOTING PLOT RELEASED UNTIL TRIAL.** The [AP](#) (7/28) reports, “A federal judge ordered the release” of Samy Hamzeh, who is “charged in a mass shooting plot in downtown Milwaukee,” until his trial next month. Hamzeh “was arrested in 2016 on two counts of possessing a machine gun and one count of possessing a silencer, which he bought from undercover FBI agents.” Federal prosecutors “allege he was planning to kill at least 30 people at a Masonic center to ‘defend Islam.’” The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (7/28, Barrett, 596K) reports Hamzeh “had already been in jail for about 30 months – roughly the sentence he’d face if convicted of the charges stemming from January 2016.”

**FBI UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE “TAMER ELNOURY” TELLS HOW HE INFILTRATED AL QAEDA, THWARTED TERROR ATTACKS.** In a “60 Minutes” piece on [CBS News](#) (7/29, 6.78M) titled “Inside al Qaeda: Living and working with terrorists,” an FBI undercover operative “tells Scott Pelley how he infiltrated al Qaeda and thwarted potential terror attacks planned for New York and Toronto.” Pelley said, “Al Qaeda knew him as Tamer Elnoury. They thought he was a wealthy Arab-American with seething anger at the United States. But as we first reported in October, in reality he had dedicated himself to the war on terror the morning of 9/11.”

In a second piece, Jacqueline Kalil reports on [CBS News](#) (7/29, Kalil, 6.78M) how “60 Minutes” hid the FBI operative’s “appearance through hours of meticulous special effects makeup,” due to his true identity being classified.

**BLUMENTHAL PLANS TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DECLASSIFYING ALL REMAINING 9/11 DOCUMENTS.** The [AP](#) (7/28) reported Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) “says he plans to introduce a resolution that calls for declassifying all remaining documents related to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.” He “contends the documents may reveal unknown connections between the terrorists and foreign nations.” Blumenthal “is scheduled to appear Monday at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford with survivors and families of the 9/11 victims,” some of whom announced plans in April “to step up pressure to compel the CIA, the FBI and others to turn over information that could shed light on potential complicity by Saudi Arabia.”

**GRAND JURY INDICTS TEXAS TEEN FOR ISIS-INSPIRED MALL SHOOTING PLOT.** The [Dallas Morning News](#) (7/27, Wigglesworth, Writer, 1.05M) reported Matin Azizi-Yarand, 17, of Plano, who is “accused of plotting an ISIS-inspired mass shooting at Frisco’s Stonebriar Centre mall,” was “indicted by a grand jury Thursday.” Azizi-Yarand “is charged with solicitation to commit capital murder of a peace officer and making a terroristic threat, according to the grand jury results

released Friday afternoon.” Azizi-Yarand “allegedly planned the attack in a series of online messages over five months with people who turned out to be FBI confidential sources and an undercover FBI employee.” [KTVT-TV Dallas](#) (7/27) also reported.

**JUDGE ORDERS CLEVELAND FOURTH OF JULY TERROR ATTACK PLOTTER TO UNDERGO COMPETENCY EVALUATION.** The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/27, 1.03M) reported, “A federal magistrate judge ordered a competency evaluation” for Demetrius Pitts, “a man accused of plotting a terrorist attack on Fourth of July fireworks spectators in downtown Cleveland.” Magistrate Judge David Ruiz “wrote Friday that he found good cause to question whether...Pitts can assist in his defense,” and ordered “a psychiatric or psychological examination,” with the “completion of a report on Pitts’ competency as soon as possible.” The FBI “arrested Pitts, 48, on July 1.” Federal prosecutors “say the Cincinnati native plotted an attack in the name of al-Qaida.”

**PHILIPPINE COURT GRANTS US REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERROR ATTACK PLOTTER.** The [AP](#) (7/27, Gomez) reports, “A Philippine court has granted a U.S. government request for the extradition” of Filipino doctor Russell Langi Salic, “suspected by U.S. authorities of being an Islamic State group sympathizer and plotting bombings and shootings at New York City concert venues, subway stations and Times Square.” Salic “is alleged to have sent about \$423 from the Philippines in May 2016 to an undercover FBI agent posing as an Islamic extremist to help fund the planned attacks.”

## **National Security News:**

**VIRGINIA TO REPLACE DRIVER’S LICENSES FOR REAL ID COMPLIANCE.** The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Lazo, 15.68M) reported that a driver’s license replacement effort scheduled to begin this fall seeks to put Virginia in compliance with REAL ID, a 2005 domestic security program that TSA agents have been enforcing at security checkpoints. The agents have only been “accepting licenses from compliant states or those that have been granted extensions.”

## **Other DHS News:**

**PORTLAND, OR MAYOR SUPPORTS AIM OF ICE PROTESTERS, BUT NOT MAKESHIFT CAMPS.** [The Oregonian](#) (7/27, 815K) reports, “Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said Friday that while he supports protesters’ rights to express their views in public venues in the city, they should not erect large, semi-permanent camps as part of their demonstrations.” Wheeler on Friday “held the first of what he has billed as experimental monthly on-the-record conversations with Portland’s press corps,” and “the press conference ranged in topic from neighborhood planning to environmental policy,” but “reporters homed in on the five-week protest at the city’s Immigrations and Customs Enforcement field office, which Wheeler ordered disbanded Monday.” Protesters “demonstrating against the Trump administration and asking for the abolishment of ICE had set up a large camp near Southwest Macadam Avenue and did not leave for weeks, disrupting agency workers and area businesses,” and “they left behind a junk heap of astonishing size, which drew criticism even from supporters of their cause.”

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (7/27, Sparling, 104K) reports, “Representatives of the news media peppered the mayor with questions about the vanquished encampment during a Friday, July 27 news conference at City Hall,” and “several journalists asked why Wheeler ordered the \$12,000 clean-up while still allowing right-wing protesters to hold rowdy marches along downtown streets.” Wheeler “acknowledged that the gatherings have become ‘organized street brawls,’ but said the city’s role is to allow everyone the ability to express their first amendment rights safely. ‘The Portland Police Bureau does not get to pick ideological sides,’ he responded. ‘I’ve told you my particular objection to the Trump Administration policy, and it is a strenuous objection.’” Wheeler “also said he has no plans to pull Portland’s participation from the Joint Terrorism Task Force, alluding to the threat of white-power domestic terrorism in the Rose City and noting that ‘the work of the JTTF happens whether we’re a part of it or not.’”

**SIX-YEAR-OLD GIRL REPORTEDLY ABUSED AT ARIZONA MIGRANT DETENTION CENTER.** [The Nation](#) (7/27, 378K) reports, “According to immigrant-rights advocates, a 6-year-old girl separated from her mother under the Trump administration’s ‘zero-tolerance’ immigration policy was sexually abused while at an Arizona detention facility run by Southwest Key Programs.” The child “was then made to sign a form acknowledging that she was told to maintain her distance from her alleged abuser, who is an older child being held at the same detention facility.” The girl, “who is only identified by the initials D.L., and her mother had been fleeing gang violence in their native Guatemala,” and “according to the family, the pair entered the United States at a point of entry in El Paso, Texas, on May 24, where they presented Border Patrol authorities with paperwork claiming that they had ‘credible fear’ that returning to Guatemala would result in harm.” On May 26, “government officials separated D.L. from her mother and sent her to Casa Glendale, a shelter outside of Phoenix operated by Southwest Key Programs,” and “it was there that the alleged abuse occurred.”



The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/28, N&#225;&#241;ez, Pitzl, 1.21M) reports from Phoenix, “Jeff Eller, a spokesman for Southwest Key, told The Arizona Republic Friday that officials in charge of caring for the child and handling the case made a mistake labeling the incident as ‘sexual abuse,’ when it should have been characterized as ‘inappropriate behavior.’” Southwest Key, “a Texas-based nonprofit, houses more than 1,500 migrant children in Arizona, California and Texas under a \$458 million contract with the federal Unaccompanied Alien Children Program.”

[Newsweek](#) (7/28, Brennan, 2.18M) reports, “Documents obtained by The Nation show the girl was abused at the Casa Glendale facility near Phoenix, Arizona, by an older child being held there.” Newsweek says, “She was then made to sign a form that said she would keep her distance from her abuser.” Newsweek adds, “Identified only as D.L., the girl crossed the border with her mother in El Paso, Texas, to escape gang violence in Guatemala,” and “two days later, the pair were separated under President Donald Trump’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy.” The girl “was then sent to Casa Glendale, operated by Southwest Key Program, which operates 26 immigrant shelter facilities for immigrant children across the country.”

**FEDERAL ANTI-TERRORISM LAW COULD GIVE CORPORATIONS LEGAL IMMUNITY.** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/27, Pearce, 4.03M) reports, “For MGM Resorts International, millions of dollars could hinge on a single question: Was the shooting massacre of 58 people at a concert in Las Vegas last year an act of terrorism?” According to the Times, “The killer, longtime gambler Steven Paddock, left few clues about his motive,” but “how the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the federal courts answer the question could determine whether shooting survivors and families of the dead can sue the casino and hotel giant, which they say missed warning signs of his attack.” According to the Times, “In a novel legal move, MGM is arguing that the attack was terrorism, and that under a law passed by Congress in 2002, the company is immune from such lawsuits,” and “if MGM is successful, it could open the door for more companies and public agencies to seek protection from lawsuits not just over clear-cut terrorist attacks with political agendas, but over mass shootings with no known motive.”

## **Global Media:**

**CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERS DECRY ITALY’S ANTI-MIGRANT POLICIES.** The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Harlan, Pitrelli, 15.68M) reports that in recent weeks, Roman Catholic “church leaders of all kinds – figures close to [Pope] Francis and priests speaking on quiet Sundays – have struck back against” Italy’s populist government and “what they describe as a xenophobic and fear-driven response to the wave of refugees and economic migrants who have reached Italian shores.” Some “outspoken church leaders also describe a jolt of alarm, and say that the rise of anti-migrant movements here and in several other predominantly Catholic countries, including Poland and Austria, shows sharp divisions within the faith over how welcoming to be.” According to the Post, the church leaders’ “voices have stood in relief against a political landscape where few others, even in Italian opposition parties, are delivering that message.”

**IMMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA SETS NEW RECORD.** The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/27, Johnson, 3.93M) reports, “More than half-a-million immigrants moved to Australia in the last year – setting a new record.” The Daily Mail says, “With very few migrants moving to regional areas, that meant 74 per cent of them moved to Sydney and Melbourne, which were already congested.”

**ATTEMPT TO GET ASYLUM SEEKER OFF PLANE TO AFGHANISTAN DRAWS SOCIAL MEDIA ATTENTION.** The [New York Times](#) (7/27, Anderson, Specia, 19.33M) reported that a live-streamed attempt to get an asylum seeker off a plane which would have taken him back to Afghanistan “struck a nerve with millions as it reverberated across social media.” The effort, undertaken by a Swedish migrant-rights activist, also “cast a harsh light on the policy practiced by Sweden and other European countries.” The policy calls for “forcibly returning rejected Afghan asylum seekers to their homeland, one of the world’s most dangerous places.”

**IMMIGRATION STANCE OF GERMAN CONSERVATIVES AFFECTING EUROPEAN POLICY.** [Newsweek](#) (7/27, Maza, 2.18M) reported that members of the “conservative Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), a coalition partner of Germany’s embattled Chancellor Angela Merkel,” want to solidify their group’s “reputation as a right-leaning political party that’s tough on immigration – and it’s shaking up European policy in the process.” The article focused on Merkel’s June decision to allow the formation of asylum processing camps, which created the potential for migrants to “be sent back” to another European Union country if they had already applied for asylum in that nation.

**Bavaria Governor “Striking A Softer Tone On Refugees.”** The [AP](#) (7/27) reported that Markus Soeder, governor of the German state of Bavaria, has been “striking a softer tone on refugees” who seek asylum in that country. Soeder, who “opened a center for asylum and repatriation Friday as part” of Bavaria’s asylum streamlining effort, said he wants to achieve a “balance” between helping those who should get asylum and quickly deporting those who should not. Recent polls, added the AP, have shown that Soeder’s CSU party has been “getting under 40 percent of the vote ahead of state elections in October.”



**CANADIAN AGENCY USING DNA TESTING FOR MIGRANT NATIONALITY DETERMINATION PROCESS.** [Reuters](#) (7/27, Hopkins) reported that the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is using DNA testing and ancestry websites to try to establish the nationality of “longer-term” migrant detainees, according to an email sent by CBSA spokesperson Jayden Robertson.

*To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the [website](#).*

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